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REPORT ON THE SUMMER COURSES IN ECONOMICS AND  
STATISTICS FOR AFRICAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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REPORT ON THE SUMMER COURSES IN ECONOMICS AND  
STATISTICS FOR AFRICAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

1. The Secretariat participated in the promotion of two summer courses for African university students, in economics and statistics respectively, during 1961.
2. The first, an ECA/ICA summer seminar in African Economic Development for African students of economics entering their final year at a university, was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 17 July to 8 September 1961. This is in accordance with the requirement of resolution 17(II) on which the Economic Commission for Africa continuing Project 41-06 is based. The Commission discussed this matter under item 12 of the agenda of the third session.
3. The objective of the seminar was to provide an intensive programme of lectures, reading and discussions in the problems and planning of economic development in an African context. By these means it was hoped that success would be achieved in deepening understanding of fundamental economic problems and broadening awareness of current development efforts in Africa.
4. All the expenses of the summer seminar were met from funds generously provided by the United States International Cooperation Administration (ICA).
5. The faculty consisted of two American professors, two professors from English-speaking universities and one professor from a French-speaking university in Africa. Some ECA staff members assisted in the teaching and conducting discussions. Documents on economic matters relating to Africa prepared by the Economic Commission for Africa Secretariat were extensively used.
6. There participated 27 students from 13 both English and French speaking universities and university colleges in the ECA region.
7. The results of the seminar were most encouraging. The participants recognized similarities and differences in the economic development in

countries throughout Africa. The educational value of the seminar's emphasis on the application of academic economics to concrete development problems in Africa was demonstrated. The substantive content of the seminar provided a significant extension of the students' previous educational experience at their universities.

8. It was the unanimous recommendation of both the faculty and the students that as the 1961 experiment had been a very substantial success, summer seminars for African students of economics entering their final year at a university be repeated in future years. It was however recommended that the length of such seminars be reduced to six weeks to enable students to have some holidays.

9. The second summer course in which the Secretariat participated in 1961 was a training course in household budget surveys held at Libreville from 21 August to 26 September 1961. This undertaking was organized jointly by the United Nations and the Governments of France and Gabon, with the co-operation of FAO. Training of an advanced type in the operation of household survey programmes in African conditions was given to twenty-seven participants from 15 French speaking countries. Most of them were about to enter the public services of their respective countries on completion of university studies in Economics, Statistics or Mathematics. The United Nations Technical Assistance Programme contributed half of the fellowship budget, the other half being paid by the FAC (Fond d'aide et de Cooperation; i.e. French Bilateral Assistance Programme). The Government of Gabon provided a number of facilities to the centre.

10. The curriculum included courses in sampling methods as applied to household surveys on consumption and expenditure, a review of past surveys under African conditions, field exercises in Libreville city and its rural surroundings, and ended with a fortnight's seminar on utilisation

of household surveys for economic and social planning. A course on dietary surveys was also given by an FAO expert.

11. As most of the students were about to take up important duties in the service of their respective governments they were very eager to review problems of statistical development in their countries. It was apparent that it would be very useful for the Commission to hold regular summer vacation courses for statistical students during the critical years when most African "cadres" of countries' statistical offices are being trained.

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